Introduction of hydrogen as an alternate fuel

2953. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up a high powered Committee to finalise a road-map for the introduction of hydrogen as an alternative fuel;

(b) if so, whether this panel has been given a fixed time schedule for submitting its recommendations;

(c) if so, what are the other issues the Committee will go into;

(d) what is the composition of the Committee; and

(e) by when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The terms of reference of the group are as follows:

1. To examine steps for accelerating progress and compressing the time frame for achieving commercial viability of specific Hydrogen Energy applications.
2. To suggest areas of comparative advantage for India among the various end-uses of hydrogen.
3. To suggest measures for research and commercial collaborations with recognized and established international work in this sector.

(d) 1. Shri N.K. Singh, Member, Planning Commission—Chairman
2. Shri S. Narayan, Adviser to the Prime Minister
3. Secretary, Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources
4. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
5. Secretary, Department of Science & Technology
6. Shri Rajiv Sikh, Special Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs

7. Shri Pradipto Ghosh, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs

8. Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director General, TERI

9. Prof. O.N. Srivastava, BHU

10. Dr. S.K. Chopra, Senior Adviser, MNES-Member Secretary

(e) The Committee will submit its report in six weeks.

Launching of Jatropha Plantation

2954. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have mooted a proposal for launching nation-wide Jatropha plantation to generate environment friendly bio-fuels to tap-non-conventional source of energy;

(b) if so, the details of the dream project and how far it would help to reduce the oil import bill; and

(c) the areas identified for plantation and by when the project would start showing results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) A committee set up under the chairmanship of Dr. D.N. Tiwari, Member Planning Commision, on 'Development of Bio-fuel' has recommended large scale plantation of Jatropha curcas to generate environment friendly fuel which can be blended with diesel. At the initial stage there would be no reduction in the oil import bill as the blending of Bio-diesel produced with diesel would be 5% and diesel is only one of the various derivatives of crude oil.

(c) About 13.4 million hectare of area has been identified which has potential for Jatropha plantation in different States of the country. As per recommendations of the Committee blending of 5% bio-diesel in diesel would start from year 2006-07 and would reach level of 20% by the year 2011-12.